



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor  
**Department No.:** 011 – Board of Supervisors  
**For Agenda Of:** March 19, 2019  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Board Member(s) 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor Das Williams  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Joan Hartmann  
Contact Info: Darcel Elliott, 805-568-2186  
Jefferson Litten, 805-568-2192  
**SUBJECT:** **Proposed Advocacy Support position on H.R. 279 (Carbajal) – California Clean Coast Act of 2019**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Take a support advocacy position on H.R. 279 (Carbajal) – California Clean Coast Act of 2019; direct staff to draft a letter stating the Board’s support position to the congressional author, members of Congress including, but not limited to, the federal legislative delegation and appropriate committee chairs; and authorize the Chair to sign said letter; and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the project is an organizational or administrative activity of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to consider taking a support position on House Resolution (H.R.) 279 (Carbajal) – 116<sup>th</sup> Congress - California Clean Coast Act of 2019.

**Background:**

Coastal recreation, fishing, and especially tourism are essential components of the local economy in Santa Barbara County. As reported in *UCSB's 2018 Santa Barbara County Economic Forecast*, the "Leisure and Hospitality" sector - driven in large part by Santa Barbara County's coastal attractions – is the County's third largest employment sector, after "Government" and "Educational and Health Services", employing 27,000 people and making up 13.1% of the County job market. Statewide, the coastal "tourism and recreation" sector, as calculated by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) supports 368,000 jobs, generates \$17.6 billion in GDP, and \$8.7 billion in wages.

In Santa Barbara County, both the 1969 oil spill - the third largest oil spill in U.S. waters - and the 2015 oil pipeline rupture off of the Gaviota Coast demonstrated the catastrophic damage that oil extraction can inflict on the local economy, fisheries, and the environment of coastal counties.

Both the California public and California lawmakers have long recognized the value of protecting the State's coastal economy and protecting local fisheries and coastlines from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas exploration. A Field/IGS (Institute of Governmental Studies) poll in 2016 found 90 percent of Californians believe that protecting the coastline is important and a 2017 survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found support for drilling in California at an all-time low of 25 percent. Last year, Governor Jerry Brown signed two bills into law – Senate Bill 834 (Jackson) and Assembly Bill 1775 (Muratsuchi) - seeking to prohibit new construction of oil-drilling related infrastructure, such as pipelines, within state waters if the federal government were to authorize any new offshore oil leases.

In January of 2018, the Department of Interior, through BOEM, released the Draft Proposed Plan (DPP) for the 2019-2024 offshore Oil and Gas Leasing program which would make 90 percent of the Offshore Continental Shelf (OCS) - including the coastal waters off of the coast of Santa Barbara - open to oil and gas exploration. On January 30, 2018, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted in support of sending a letter stating Santa Barbara County's opposition to expand oil and gas drilling off our coast. BOEM has not yet released a new draft of the Proposed Plan.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Salud Carbajal introduced H.R. 279, the California Clean Coast Act of 2019, which would prohibit oil and gas exploration and leasing in areas of the outer Continental Shelf located off the California coast. This bill is similar to a previous piece of legislation introduced by Congressman Carbajal, H.R. 731 (2017), which the Board voted to support on April 11, 2017. On February 10, 2017, the House Committee on Natural Resources referred H.R. 731 to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources with no subsequent action taken.

The Santa Barbara County 2019 Legislative Platform includes a plank regarding "Oil & Gas Infrastructure Safety and Compliance" with the stated public benefit to "reduce likelihood of oil spills and public safety hazards with the intent of protecting public health and the ecologically sensitive habitats of Santa Barbara (including terrestrial and marine environments). This appears to be similar to the goal of H.R. 279 but the Legislative Platform does not include a specific reference to banning offshore oil and gas production, therefore a vote of the Board of Supervisors is required to take action. With the Board's previous support for H.R. 731 and opposition to the expansion of oil and gas drilling of our coast in the BOEM's DPP, it seems in the Board's interest to also support H.R. 279.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

N/A

**Key Contract Risks:**

N/A

**Staffing Impacts:**

N/A

**Legal Positions:** N/A

**FTEs:** N/A

**Special Instructions:**

That staff draft a letter of support for H.R. 279 (Carbajal) – California Coast Act of 2019 – and transmit copies of this resolution to: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein; U.S. Senator Kamala Harris; Congressman Salud Carbajal; Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate Addison Mitchell “Mitch” McConnell Jr.; Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate Charles “Chuck” Schumer; Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy; Chairs and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources Raúl Grijalva and Rob Bishop; House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chair Alan Lowenthal

**Attachments:**

(1) HR 279 Bill Text

**Authored by:**

Darcel Elliott & Jefferson Litten

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 279

To permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State  
of California, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. KILANNA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CORREA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BERA, Mr. COX of California, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. PORTER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Ms. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast  
of the State of California, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “California Clean Coast  
5 Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN AREAS**  
2 **OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LO-**  
3 **CATED OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.**

4 Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
5 (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the  
6 following:

7 “(q) PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN  
8 AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LOCATED  
9 OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of this Act or any other law and except as  
12 provided in paragraph (2), beginning on the date of  
13 enactment of this subsection, the conduct of oil and  
14 gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities is pro-  
15 hibited in areas of the outer Continental Shelf lo-  
16 cated off the coast of the State of California.

17 “(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection af-  
18 fects any rights under leases issued under this Act  
19 before the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

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